ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

This form is to be used in conjunction with a “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code” form

Date: 2007-9-1

Name of Primary Requester: Bible Translation and Literacy

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Associated Change request number : 2007-171 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lsm (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed).

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION
   a) Preferred name of language for code element denotation:
      Olusamia

   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:

   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Samia, Saamia, Gwe (in Uganda)

   d) Reason for preferred name:
      It is the natural language name according to the community members.

   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language:

   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: sam

Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers is not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.

2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION
   a) Is this a ☒ Living language
      ☐ Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
      ☐ Recently extinct language
      ☐ Historical language
      ☐ Ancient language
Artificially constructed language
Macrolanguage
(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/types.asp)

b) Countries where used:
   Kenya; Uganda

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS
coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Kenya: Western Province in Busia Districts
   Uganda: Lake Victoria area near Kenya border.

d) For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language,
give the approximate date of the last known user’s death

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a) This language is: [ ] Signed [x] Spoken [ ] Attested only in writings

b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
   Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (J.30).

c) Closest language linguistically. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken
languages:
   Olukhayo

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers,
   radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   There is written literature, some radio stations also broadcast in the language.

b) Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal
   education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:
   It is recognized by the government, taught in early childhood and in the first three years of
   primary schooling.

c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   The language is used in all facets of life except formal engagements where Kiwahili or
   English are used. The speakers of this language are part of the larger macro-group
   Oluluyia.
5. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code”

a) First-hand knowledge. Describe:
As a member of the macro-group Oluluyia, I have interacted with some of them.

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
Information obtained from a brainstorming session between some Kenya linguists with others coming from the Oluluyia macro-group.


c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):


Please return this form to:
ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
Email: iso639-3@sil.org
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

Further information:
If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers: